ABSTRACT

The disclosure relates to a method and an apparatus for producing a continuous edge thickening [[(18)]] along the running direction of a stretched and tensioned web material [[(2)]] of a positively and continuously transported thermoplastic film material. The web material [[(2)]] is folded initially along its outer edge regions running in the drawing direction through 180° at least once, whereafter the web material [[(2)]] is, for the fixing of each respective fold, moved around a cylinder or roller. The folded areas are thereafter passed through a welding device [[(13)]] in order to provide a unifying weld between the fold/folds and the remainder of the web material [[(2)]]. With the utilisation of the residual heat stored in the fused and welded material, each respective folded and welded edge of the web is moved in its tensioned state about rollers ~~(9, 11)~~ displaying progressively reducing available roller width and with ramp formations [[(19)]] at each respective outer edge, the folded and welded edge being plastically roll-deformed to a circular or semicircular outer cross section and a hollow inner area or section.